

Message Text

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71

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USSS-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /168 W

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O R 112114Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 97

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

UNCLAS USUN 3839

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: SYG STATEMENT ON ME

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SYG STATEMENT ON ME SITUATION ISSUED
AS UN PRESS RELEASE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 11. SYG ALSO
TRANSMITTED STATEMENT TO PRES OF SC WITH REQUEST IT BE
CIRCULATED IMMEDIATELY TO COUNCIL MEMBERS:

"I HAVE UP TILL NOW REFRAINED FROM MAKING A PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON THE CONFLICT IN THE ME, BECAUSE I DID NOT WANT
IN ANY WAY TO INTERFERE WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE SC, WHICH
UNDER THE CHARTER HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

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"NOW, HOWEVER, AFTER MORE THAN FIVE DAYS OF HEAVY FIGHTING WHICH HAS ALREADY CAUSED APPALLING HUMAN LOSSES, I FEEL OBLIGED TO SPEAK OUT AS SYG. NONE OF THE PARTIES IS PREPARED TO CONCEDE ITS OBJECTIVES, EITHER MILITARY OR POLITICAL. THEY WOULD APPEAR, THEREFORE, TO BE EMBARKED ON A WAR OF ATTRITION WITH THE GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES NOT ONLY FOR THE REGION ITSELF, BUT FOR THE WORLD COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. WHO CAN POSSIBLY BENEFIT FROM SUCH A DEVELOPMENT? IF THE WAR CONTINUES, IT WILL POSE AN INCREASING THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN A MUCH WIDER CONTEXT.

"I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THIS PROSPECT. I, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, AM PROFOUNDLY DISTRESSED TO OBSERVE DAY BY DAY THE LOSS OF COUNTLESS LIVES, THE DESTRUCTION AND MISERY, AND THE INCREASING DANGER TO CIVILIAN POPULATIONS.

"I AM ALSO PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED WITH THE ROLE OF THE UN IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF OUR ORGANIZATION IS THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. IF WE FAIL IN THAT ROLE, THE CENTRAL POINT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S EXISTENCE IS JEOPARDIZED.

"I KNOW VERY WELL THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL REASONS WHY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS NOT AT PRESENT IN A POSITION TO EXERCISE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE IN THIS AFFAIR. THAT SITUATION HAS OCCURRED BEFORE AND IT WILL DOUBTLESS OCCUR AGAIN.

"BUT AFTER MORE THAN FIVE DAYS OF THIS TERRIBLE WAR I FEEL IT IS MY DUTY AS SYG OF THE UN TO URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ONCE AGAIN HOW THE OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE AND PEACEFUL ACTION CAN BE SURMOUNTED AND THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE COUNCIL CAN BE REASSERTED IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE.

"I HAVE NO DETAILED SOLUTION TO SUGGEST. I DO, HOWEVER, EARNESTLY APPEAL TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO LOOK URGENTLY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TURNING THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT INTO A STARTING POINT FOR A NEW EFFORT AT A REAL SETTLEMENT.

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"I BELIEVE THAT IF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WERE TO TAKE THIS ATTITUDE, THEY WOULD FIND IN THE UN THE INSTRUMENTALITIES TO ASSIST THEM TO GO FORWARD. NATURALLY WE IN THE SECRETARIAT STAND READY TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WE CAN. I AM ENCOURAGED TO NOTE THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS HAVE DECLARED THEIR READINESS TO ASSIST.

"I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR

COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT TO TURN FROM WAR TO PEACE. I HAVE NO WISH TO DEFLECT ANY GOVERNMENT FROM WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE ITS LEGITIMATE SOVEREIGN AIMS. I DO, HOWEVER, QUESTION WHETHER THE CONTINUATION OF THE WAR CAN POSSIBLY ACHIEVE THOSE AIMS PERMANENTLY FOR ANY OF THE PARTIES. I AM ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE WIDER THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY WHICH THIS SITUATION MAY CREATE.

"I THEREFORE EARNESTLY APPEAL TO THE CONFLICTING GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE COURSES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, SO THAT FIGHTING AND BLOODSHED MAY CEASE. I ALSO HOPE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBER STATES, WILL REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO SEEK AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND AN IMMEDIATE AND DETERMINED RESUMPTION OF THE QUEST FOR A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT IN THE ME."

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